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Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Addendum

Tenth report: Relationship between the treatment of perennial activities in the programme budget and the use of the contingency fund

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the relationship between the treatment of perennial activities in the programme budget and the use of the contingency fund (A/C.5/52/42). In the course of its deliberations, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information on the issues under consideration.

2. The Advisory Committee points out that resources appropriated by the General Assembly for perennial activities are subject to the approval of their respective mandates and may not be expended unless and until such mandates are approved or renewed.

3. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, in the past, programme budgets included a number of perennial activities related to Namibia, Kampuchea and apartheid. The programme budget for the current biennium includes, besides the Commission on Human Rights, the activities of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and its subsidiary bodies which are also approved annually by the General Assembly (see para. 2.97 of section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999).

4. The Committee believes that problems in the interpretation of what is a perennial mandate should be settled by the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/52/42.

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